

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE BERLIN AIRLIFT GRATITUDE FOUNDATION

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Berlin Airlift Gratitude Foundation.

The Berlin Airlift began on June 26, 1948. Hostilities increased between the Soviets and the western Allies over access to the city of Berlin. As a result, the Soviets denied Berlin all access to the western portion of the city that was controlled by the American, British, and French forces. Automobile and railroad transportation, as well as any water traffic, was prohibited leaving the 2.2 million residents of West Berlin helpless.

In response, the western Allies took flight in an effort to airlift food, fuel, raw materials, and other supplies to the hopeful citizens of Berlin. These deliveries soon began reaching 500–700 tons a day in the summer of 1948, and continued to expand throughout the 322-day blockade of Berlin. Persistence paid off as the Soviets lifted the land and water blockade on May 12, 1949, ending the dreadful blockade. It is not surprising that the airlifts continued even after the blockade ended in an effort to build supplies for the needy Berliners.

The Berlin Airlift Gratitude Foundation and its director, Mr. Heinz-Gerd Reese, have for the past 50 years preserved the memory and achievements of the Allies keeping Berlin free by way of the Berlin Airlift. The Berlin Airlift Gratitude Foundation and its members have provided the families of the 78 victims of the Berlin Airlift with financial assistance since 1959.

They have provided their full support in all Berlin Airlift reunions over the years, not only in Berlin, but all the bases in Germany that supported the Berlin Airlift. They have invited the veterans of the Berlin Airlift to visit Berlin at their expense to commemorate the 50th year of the Berlin Airlift on May 9–13, 1999. The highlight of the reunion will come on May 12, 1999, which is the anniversary of the official ending of the Berlin Airlift.

Through their efforts, they have honored those who served and hopefully enlightened future generations on how precious freedom is, and the sacrifices that must be made to achieve it. The Berlin Airlift Reunion to honor the veterans of the Berlin Airlift is also a tribute to citizens of Berlin for choosing freedom over communism and working under very difficult times and conditions to make the Berlin Airlift the great success that it was.

NORTHWEST INDIANA HISPANIC COORDINATING COUNCIL CELEBRATES ITS 11TH ANNUAL BANQUET

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 30, 1999, numerous outstanding Hispanics from Indiana's First Congressional District will be honored for their notable contributions to Northwest Indiana. Several Hispanic students from local high schools as well as individuals and community organizations will be recognized at the Northwest Indiana Hispanic Coordinating Council's 11th Annual Banquet. The Hispanic Coordinating Council consists of several organizations that have committed themselves to improving the quality of life for the Hispanic residents of Northwest Indiana as well as providing an effective avenue for promoting Hispanic interests and their shared cultural heritage.

The students who will receive awards for Outstanding Academic Achievements include: Guillermo Amezcua, Clark High School; Crystal Bannister, Calumet High School; Alejandro Barraza, Thornton Fractional South; Patricia Campos, Andean High School; Veronica Delgado, East Chicago Central High School; Adriana Dominguez, Whiting High School; Angela Espinoza, Indiana Academy; Nicholas Ferrer, Munster High School; Leonarda Gajardo, Bishop Noll High School; Esteban Gonzalez, Emerson School of Visual and Performing Arts; Melissa Hernandez, Morton High School; Linda Hinojosa, Merrillville High School; Adriana Lopez, Hobart High School; Samantha Martinez, Gavit High School; Cassandra Mateo, Portage High School; Amy Mendoza, Lowell High School; Angela Monsivais, Thomas A. Edison Jr.-Sr. High School; Danielle Ontiveros, Valparaiso High School; Eliezer Rolon, Thornton Fractional North; Lisa Russi, River Forest High School; Rebecca Spindler, Hanover Central Sr. High School; and Katharina Velez, Hammond High School.

The students who will receive awards for Outstanding Athletic Achievements include: Vanessa Bustos, Thornton Fractional North; John Cantu, Alex Ramos, and Mark Gonzalez, Hobart High School; Rosalinda Cedano, Bishop Noll High School; Katherine Flores, Calumet High School; Enrique Fontanez III, Portage High School; Rafael Gonzalez, Central High School; Antonio Greppi, Andean High School; Francisco Hernandez, River Forest High School; Paul Navarro, Merrillville High School; Cesar Rodriguez, Whiting High School; Nicholas Rodriguez Gavit High School; Alfonso Salinas III, Hammond High School; Patrick Santana, Thomas A. Edison Jr.-Sr. High school; Ruben Trevino, Munster High School; Alfonso Vargas IV, Morton High School; and Benjamin Ybarra, Clark-Whiting High School.

The Council will also present the President's Award to Lou and Stella Torres. Leonor Velasquez will receive the Cesar Chavez Exemplary Service Award. The Outstanding Family Award will go to Ralph and Thelma Mora. Michael Lopez of East Chicago, Indiana, will receive the Community Service Award for his dedication and contributions to Northwest Indiana. Finally, the Humanitarian Service Award will go to the following organizations: Ameritech, Asociacion Benefica Hijos De Borinquen, National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, and the Puerto Rican Parade and Cultural Committee of Northwest Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in applauding all of the award recipients chosen by the Northwest Indiana Hispanic Coordinating Council. All of these individuals are most deserving of the Honors bestowed upon them. Moreover, I would like to commend the Northwest Indiana Hispanic Coordinating Council for committing itself to the preservation of the Hispanic culture. Without the contributions of Hispanic-Americans, the rich, diverse, ethnically flavored culture of Northwest Indian would not be complete.

IN HONOR OF THE BAYONNE FAMILY YMCA AND THIS YEAR'S HONOREE, BAYONNE CHIEF OF POLICE, FRANK PAWLOWSKI

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bayonne Family YMCA on its Seventh Annual Distinguished Service Awards Cocktail Party and this year's honoree Bayonne Police Chief Mr. Frank Pawlowski.

The Bayonne Family YMCA is a nonprofit organization that has taken the lead in addressing the social needs of the community. By providing essential services such as after-school programs, day care, temporary housing, and summer day camp, the YMCA has provided assistance to those in need or at risk.

Headed by Mr. Joseph Tagliareni, Chairman of the Child Care Program annual fundraiser, and Mr. Alan Russotto, Chairman of the Souvenir Ad Journal, the Bayonne Family YMCA will be hosting its seventh annual awards dinner on April 23. Each year the YMCA highlights the accomplishments of one member of the community for his or her dedication and exemplary leadership. This year the YMCA is honoring Bayonne Police Chief Mr. Frank Pawlowski.

A lifelong resident of Bayonne, Chief Pawlowski has committed himself to the betterment of the community. After serving his country in the United States Army from 1962 to 1964, Chief Pawlowski returned to Bayonne where he began his thirty-four year career with the Police Department. While rising through the ranks, Chief Pawlowski served as Commander of the Detective Bureau, Commander

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of the Juvenile Aid Planning and Training Bureau, Administration Division Commander, and Patrol Division Commander.

Chief Pawlowski is a member of the New Jersey Police Chiefs Association, the National Police Chiefs Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and is currently Vice President of the Hudson County Police Chiefs Association. In addition, for his remarkable efforts and commendable achievements, Chief Pawlowski has received two departmental commendations for outstanding police work and two excellent police service awards.

Both the Bayonne Family YMCA and this year's award dinner honoree Chief Pawlowski exemplify leadership and dedication to the Bayonne community. For these tremendous contributions to New Jersey and the incredible examples set as public servants, I am very happy to honor and congratulate the Bayonne Family YMCA and Chief Pawlowski.

A TRIBUTE TO O. LEWIS HARRIS

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to O. Lewis Harris on the occasion of his 20th Anniversary as the Executive Director of the Forest Hills Community House.

Lewis Harris joined the Forest Hills Community House in its fourth year of operation. With a small budget and staff, he worked with the agency board, community leadership and elected officials to define the service role and mission for the organization, a task that continues to this day. A strong believer in community and coalition building, Lew Harris quickly became involved with Community Board #6 and was appointed as a member in the spring of 1979.

Lew Harris' strong interest and focus on community service led him to join the Queensboro Council for Social Welfare, the Queens Interagency Council for Aging, The Non-Profit Coordinating Committee of New York; The Council of Senior Centers and Services of New York City, and the New York City Coalition for the Aging on whose Boards of Directors he continues to serve.

Under Lew Harris' leadership, the Forest Hills Community House has developed a broad array of services for people of all ages. Today, the Forest Hills Community House operates more than thirty-five programs through nineteen different locations in Queens and provides services to more than 15,000 people annually. In the last twenty years, the Forest Hills Community House has gained a reputation for developing innovative and high quality services. Several Community House programs have also been identified as models for replication throughout New York City and beyond.

O. Lewis Harris has long been known as an innovator and beacon of good will to all those with whom he has come into contact. Through his dedicated efforts, he has helped improve my constituents' quality of life. In recognition of his many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations to O. Lewis Harris on the occasion of his 20th Anniversary as the Executive Director of the Forest Hills Community House.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE LOMPOC VALLEY CENTER

HON. LOIS CAPP

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues the opening of the Allan Hancock College Lompoc Valley Center in Lompoc, CA. For years Lompoc and the Santa Ynez Valley have been in need of a permanent site for a campus and now that need has become a reality.

The Lompoc Valley Center of Allan Hancock College will serve 2,000 students and will offer courses in the sciences, business, technology, and the fine arts. Students will work in computer labs networked with fiber optic cable and will learn in classrooms that have multimedia presentation systems. The center also includes a high-tech computer graphics and animation lab. As we all know, the jobs of the 21st century will demand high-tech and computer related skills. Allan Hancock has the resources and the expertise to teach these important skills, so that students, regardless of age, can take on quality, well-paying jobs on the central coast when they graduate.

I am pleased to tell my colleagues that in the spirit of public/private partnerships, almost 80 percent of the onsite construction bids were awarded to local contractors. The developing and building of the center has been a community-based effort which stands as a model for our nation. I commend the countless people who contributed their time, energy, and vision to create this campus.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join Allan Hancock College and the people of the central coast to celebrate the opening of the Lompoc Valley Center. I congratulate the college and all who worked tirelessly to establish the center. I wish Allan Hancock College and the Lompoc Valley Center many years of success and prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO E. JAMES MONIHAN, USA DIRECTOR TO THE FEDERATION OF WORLD VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a hero in the firefighting community. E. James (Jim) Monihan. Jim Monihan is an outstanding, dedicated, and caring Delawarean with an abundance of accomplishments in this field. On behalf of the citizens of the First State, I would like to honor this outstanding individual and extend to him our congratulations on receiving the National Volunteer Fire Council's Mason Lankford Fire Service Leadership Award.

Family, friends and fellow firefighters can now take a moment to truly appreciate the contributions Jim Monihan has brought to the firefighting community. Since moving to Lewes, DE, in 1963, he has proven his ability to advance the quality of fire and emergency

services throughout the country. This dedication to public service is rare among individuals. As President of the Lewes Fire Department, Jim arranged the purchase of nearly \$250,000 in fire apparatus. He also chaired every committee within the department and served as the in-house ambulance instructor of 10 years. He later earned a statewide reputation in Delaware for his service as president and 1st vice president of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association.

These local accomplishments were just the first steps for Jim along his road to success. His next advancement was to become the chairman of the National Volunteer Fire Council. During his tenure he orchestrated the growth of the NVFC from 18 states with 130 associate members to 44 delegate States with over 1,500 associate members. For the first time the NVFC received over \$500,000 in Federal grants to help volunteer fire services nationwide. Since retiring as chairman of the NVFC, Jim has committed himself to being the legislative chairman for the NVFC to help devise their policy priorities.

Known for his expertise and excellence in his field, Jim has been asked to provide testimony for numerous congressional committees in support of such issues ranging from the environment to fire prevention. In addition, Jim has served on the Broad of Visitors for the National Fire Academy and has chaired the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations. Currently, Jim serves as the USA Director to the Federation of World Volunteer Firefighters, which helps to unite fire service personnel from over 100 countries. Showing his continued dedication and commitment to his community, Jim still leads the local Junior Firefighter Club activities and still responds to calls today.

Mr. Speaker, I salute E. James (Jim) Monihan for implementing many of the important policies and procedures that help guide fire personnel worldwide today. His selfless commitment to the cause of volunteer firefighters will have a permanent place in Delaware's volunteer fire service history.

The example Jim has set for volunteer firemen is one we hope all future volunteer firemen will strive to emulate. His dedication to the development of fire departments, volunteer and emergency services is truly commendable. As Delaware's Congressman, I would like to personally thank him for a tremendous job well done and for 40 years of exemplary service.

A TRIBUTE TO HEIDI CUYLER, AMBER LARRISON AND SARA TRUDEAU

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the fine work and outstanding service of three wonderful and gifted young ladies from California's beautiful high desert. Heidi Cuyler, Amber Larrison and Sara Trudeau have made remarkable contributions to the Vista Campana Middle School in Apple Valley as 3-year members of the Associated Student Body (ASB).

When Heidi, Amber and Sara decided to run for ASB 3 years ago, they were required to complete a rigorous process; the election, itself, is far from a popularity contest. Candidates must maintain a 3.0 grade point average, get letters of recommendation, write a statement explaining why they want to serve, and complete a personal interview. In addition, each candidate must give a speech in front of their peers before they are selected.

For most students between the ages of 10 and 13, let alone many adults, this would seem like much too much work just to plan student activities at the school. Most remarkable is that Heidi, Amber and Sara completed this process three straight years and were successful. According to Patti Stueland, the activities Director at Vista Campana Middle School, "They are my first and only officers up to this point to be a bulldog ASB Officer for all three years they have attended V.C.M.S."

In the 3 years that they served, these young ladies helped create and develop school assemblies, noon-time activities, school dances, spirit rallies, staff appreciation days, sold dance tickets, served as tour guides for school visitors, and publicized school events through the school bulletin. In addition, they have presented student body activities to the Parent, Teacher, Student Organization, at monthly staff meetings, and school board meetings. In these, and many more activities, Heidi, Amber and Sara all demonstrated tremendous leadership skills through public speaking and working with the local community. As a result of the work of these students, Vista Campana Middle School is recognized for having one of the most outstanding student activity organizations in the high desert.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing the remarkable commitment and tremendous contributions of these three fine young ladies. Heidi Cuyler, Amber Larrison and Sara Trudeau have made a wonderful difference in the lives of those in their school and local community and it is only fitting that the House of Representatives recognize them today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 22, I was unavoidably detained during rollcall vote No. 96, the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1141 offered by Mr. OBEY. Had I been present for this vote I would have voted "aye."

DONALD EDWARD WATSON

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of a truly dedicated public servant and my good friend, Mr. Donald Edward Watson. Donald Watson's commitment to his country and community in Philadelphia spans over four decades.

Don Watson graduated in 1953 from North Catholic High School and attended the University of Missouri. After his graduation from college he began his career in public service by enlisting in the U.S. Army. In 1962, he was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant.

After departure from the military, Don became active in both the politics and community of the City of Philadelphia. He was the committee person in the 35th ward for 35 years and also worked as the ward chairman. He dedicated 25 years of service to the office of the Register of Wills where his work showed high quality, attention and diligence. In the area of community public service, Don Watson excelled for 20 years as the president of the Summerdale Boys Club. He also dedicated 10 years of his time to Northeast Mental Health as a director on the board.

Despite his many commitments to public service, Don is deeply involved and dedicated to his family. Together, with his wife Carol, Don has two children, Terri and Joseph. Also, he has two beautiful granddaughters Lauren and Lindsay.

Don Watson is the type of citizen that strives to improve the city he is in, this not only has helped Philadelphia to prosper, but also the nation. I sincerely hope that Don enjoys his move into retirement and realizes how deeply his many years of dedicated service are appreciated.

IN RECOGNITION OF BILL ERWIN

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in recognition of a very special person to Bryan-College Station, Texas—a unique leader, Mr. Bill Erwin.

Not only recognized as a significant contributor to the community of the Eighth District of Texas, Bill is somewhat of a celebrity in the Bryan-College Station area. In fact, he has been supporting volunteer services in the Bryan-College Station area for thirty-five years. It is for these efforts that the Governor of the State of Texas awarded Bill with the Lonestar Achievement Award for his volunteerism and community service last month. I think his own words speak volumes for the attitude that won him this recognition. Upon hearing the news, Bill said, "this will be great for the community"—and great for the community he is.

Elected as the Volunteer of the Year and the Citizen of the Year by the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce, he remains dedicated to bettering the community in which he lives, thus bettering the world. His list of credentials include serving as president for a number of non-profit organizations in the area, such as the United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Better Business Bureau, the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of the Brazos Valley, the Brazos Chapter of the Texas Manufacturers Association and the St. Joseph Foundation. It was said by Christine Shakespeare of the Texas Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service that the judges said "it was so amazing that whenever he identified a need he went to work to resolve it and that he didn't

stop to wonder who was going to get credit for it" and that they were "honored to give this award to him because of the amount of work he has done."

Mr. Speaker, I commend Bill Erwin and those like him that take the time to give back to their communities more than they take for themselves. I, as well as the citizens of Bryan-College Station, applaud Bill for his tireless dedication and perseverance to serving this remarkable community. He has set an example for us all to follow.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DIGITAL SIGNATURE ACT OF 1999

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Digital Signature Act of 1999. The purpose of this legislation is to require the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to develop minimum technical standards and guidelines for Federal agencies to follow when deploying digital signature technologies. In addition, the legislation authorizes the Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology to establish a National Policy Panel for Digital Signatures to explore the factors associated with the development of a National Digital Signature Infrastructure based on uniform standards to enable the widespread utilization of digital signature systems in the private sector.

I want to make clear that this legislation is technology neutral. Rather it encourages federal agencies to use uniform criteria in deploying digital signature technology and to ensure that their system are interoperable. It also encourages agencies to use commercial-off-the-shelf software (COTS) whenever possible to meet their needs.

By now, we are all aware of how the Internet is revolutionizing telecommunications and the business world. In less than ten years, the Internet has grown from a network linking a small, self-proscribed group of scientists to a telecommunication network linking millions of people around the world. The potential uses of the Internet seem unlimited. One of the most rapidly growing areas in electronic commerce. Statistics indicate electronic commerce was an \$8 billion industry in 1998. Analysts now expect electronic commerce to explode into a \$108 billion industry by 2003.

When the Internet was first developed, virtually all users were known to each other or they were easily identifiable. However, with the rapid growth of the Internet we have lost the ability to actually "know" who we are communicating with is who they say they are. In order to exchange sensitive documents or to do business transactions with confidence it is important that an electronic authentication system is developed through which both the sender and recipient can be uniquely identified. One type of electronic authentication which is both secure and provides unique identification of the sender and recipient of messages is asymmetric cryptography, commonly referred to as a digital signature.

I am not alone in my belief that digital signatures are a key element in the continuing growth of electronic commerce. The European

Commission recently drafted a directive on a common framework for a comprehensive digital signature infrastructure. In addition, the Canadian government is already utilizing digital signatures for its transactions. These actions are designed to promote the growth of electronic commerce, but they will also enhance the position of European and Canadian companies that are developing digital signature systems. This is an attempt to become the world leader in electronic commerce.

In the United States, we have a number of companies which offer digital signature services. The States are beginning to enact a patchwork of laws on digital signatures that could inhibit the widespread use of digital signatures. While I don't believe the government should dictate any one digital signature system, we should develop a level playing field which will encourage rather than hinder the development of a truly national infrastructure. It is my intent that the Digital Signature Act be a first step in this direction. This legislation has two simple goals: (1) develop uniform guidelines for Federal agencies to follow when they use digital signatures and encourage agencies to maximize the interoperability of their systems; and (2) establish a national policy panel for digital signatures to begin a dialog on the development of a national digital signature infrastructure.

My legislation requires the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to develop minimum technical standards and guidelines for use by Federal agencies when developing their digital signature infrastructure and to give due consideration to the interoperability of their system. Whenever possible, the legislation encourages agencies to use commercial-off-the-shelf products.

Agencies are currently developing and beginning to deploy digital signatures technologies. However, there is little coordination between agencies to ensure that the standards they use are consistent and that the technologies that they deploy are interoperable. NIST is charged with developing, with input from industry, technical standards and guidelines which ensure that the agencies deploy digital signature infrastructures that are both secure and interoperable. If agencies develop a variety of incompatible systems, I believe the result will be to discourage the widespread use of this electronic authentication technique by making it more complicated rather than easier to conduct business with the Federal Government.

Agencies would be required to report back to Congress what they are doing to develop digital signature systems, and why, if applicable, they are not following NIST guidelines.

In addition, the bill requires NIST to develop minimum technical criteria for agencies' use for electronic certification and management systems, both "in-house" systems or if they use a private entity. Once again, this is an attempt to level the playing field among Federal agencies to promote the private sector development of these goods and services.

To promote a uniform environment for certification authorities, the bill establishes a national panel, under the auspices of the Department of Commerce's Technology Administration, to develop model practices and procedures, uniformity among jurisdictions that license certification authorities, and uniform audit standards for certification authorities. This national panel, with broadly based representation from all stakeholders, will provide the coordination needed to put in place the national infrastructure that is a prerequisite for the widespread use of digital signatures.

In closing, I want to make clear that this legislation does not favor any digital signature system, but attempts to begin to create a minimum uniform framework for Federal agencies to make communicating with the Federal Government easier and more secure. I also want to make clear that this legislation is an outline or work in progress. The framework of the Internet is dynamic. It would be short-sighted to draft Internet related legislation that is static and unresponsive. I expect further refinements and will continue to work with industry groups, the States, the administration and other stakeholders as we move through the legislative process.

WALT AND MELODY GENTRY
BRING JOY INTO THE LIVES OF
MANY THROUGH THE ADOPT-A-
WILD HORSE AND BURRO PRO-
GRAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to commend my constituents from Mt. Vernon, IL, Walt and Melody Gentry, for using their love of horses to bring happiness to the lives of others.

Walt and Melody have spent the past 8 years educating others about the Bureau of Land Management's Adopt-A-Wild Horse and Burro program. Established in 1992, this program's objectives are to manage the population of horses and burros in the effort to protect them from dying from starvation or dehydration. Spending countless hours traveling over 30,000 miles, Walt and Melody have not only aided in many adoptions all over the Eastern United States, but have also adopted 18 of their own horses that they use to compete in horse shows and riding competitions.

In addition to Walt and Melody's compassion for these beautiful animals is their compassion for others in need. They have combined their love and appreciation for horses with their concern and eagerness to help others by performing many of these shows for disadvantaged youths. Through these events, these kids have an opportunity to interact with horses—something they wouldn't otherwise be able to do. In a time when children are often hungry for leadership and inspiration, the Gentry's have played a pivotal role by sharing the happiness they have found in the Adopt-A-Wild Horse and Burro program.

I would like to thank Walt and Melody Gentry for sharing the joy in their lives with these disadvantaged children. They are not only an inspiration for them, but for all of us who have so many joys to share.

IN HONOR OF THE WEEHAWKEN
VOLUNTEER FIRST AID SQUAD
ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Weehawken Volunteer First Aid Squad for 30 years of dedicated service to the community.

The Weehawken Volunteer First Aid Squad was the first volunteer organization of its kind in Hudson County when it was organized in 1969. Over the last three decades, almost 400 volunteers have served the Squad, providing free and indispensable lifesaving ambulance and emergency medical service for Weehawken.

Because of the caliber and dedication of the volunteers, the Squad has an excellent two to three minute response time in emergencies. This remarkable accomplishment has not only allowed the Squad to respond to an estimated 40,000 distress calls but has made it responsible for saving countless lives in my district. In fact, the Squad the fastest response team of any emergency medical service in the state of New Jersey.

Long thought of as a strictly suburban service, the First Aid Squad showed that not only could a volunteer ambulance service operate in urban areas, but that they would prove to be an invaluable source of support to the residents of these communities. It was so successful in this endeavor that it prompted five neighboring towns to follow its lead in this important health service.

On May 7, 1999, the Squad will hold its 30th Anniversary Celebration where they will highlight these tremendous accomplishments, as well as to thank those who have assisted the organization through the years. The individual who will receive an Honorary Life Membership is the Mayor of Weehawken, Mr. Richard Turner. Mayor Turner, one of the Squad's greatest supporters, has been instrumental in recruiting new members, raising funds for a new ambulance, and in ensuring the opening of the Squad's state of the art headquarters in 1986.

The Weehawken First Aid Squad exemplifies leadership and professionalism. For its pioneering efforts in the field of emergency medicine and for 30 years of service to Weehawken, I am very happy to honor and salute the Weehawken First Aid Squad.

A TRIBUTE TO KEW GARDENS
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to the Kew Gardens Civic Association, Inc., on the occasion of its annual meeting.

The members of the Kew Gardens Civic Association have long been known for their commitment to community service and to enhancing the quality of life for all Kew Gardens residents.

This year's annual meeting is a chance for all of us to celebrate the 85th anniversary of an organization that was founded in 1914 to represent the interests of homeowners in Kew Gardens. Under the dedicated leadership of retiring President Al Brand, the Kew Gardens Civic Association has seen its membership rise to more than 300 members.

The Kew Gardens Civic Association has routinely stood at the forefront of the battle to ensure that any new developments in Kew Gardens adhere to applicable zoning regulations and to prevent the illegal use of private homes for commercial purposes. In addition, the Kew Gardens Civic Association has established subcommittees to assist members in the resolution of problems with local, State, and Federal Government agencies.

The members of the Kew Gardens Civic Association elect their officers and governors each year at the organization's annual meeting in accordance with New York States' Not-for-Profit Corporation Law and the Association's By-Laws. The Board of Governors meets periodically to discuss member and community problems as well as to establish Association policy.

The members of the Kew Gardens Civic Association have long been known as innovators and beacons of good will to all those with whom they come into contact. Through their dedicated efforts, they have each helped to improve my constituents' quality of life. In recognition of their many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations to the Kew Gardens Civic Association on the occasion of its 85th anniversary.

84TH COMMEMORATION OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 84th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. As in years past, I am pleased to join my House colleagues on both sides of the aisle in ensuring that the terrible atrocities committed against the Armenian people are never repeated.

The event we come together to remember began on April 24, 1915, when more than 200 religious, political, and intellectual leaders of the Armenian community were brutally executed by the Turkish government in Istanbul. By the time it ended in 1923, this war of ethnic genocide against the Armenian people by the Ottoman Empire claimed the lives of over half the world's Armenian population—an estimated 1.5 million men, women, and children.

Sadly, there are some people who still question the fact that the Armenian genocide even occurred. History is clear, however, that the Ottoman Empire engaged in a systematic attempt to destroy the Armenian people and their culture. The U.S. National Archives contain numerous reports detailing the process by which the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire was systematically decimated. That is one of the reasons we come together every

year at this time: to remind the world that this event did indeed take place and that we must remain forever vigilant in our efforts to prevent all such future calamities.

I am pleased to report that a strong and vibrant Armenian-American community thrives in my district in Northwest Indiana. My predecessor in the House, the late Adam Benjamin, was of Armenian heritage, and Northwest Indiana's strong ties to Armenia continue to flourish. Over the years, members of the Armenian-American community throughout the United States have contributed millions of dollars and countless hours of their time to various Armenian causes. Of particular note are Mrs. Vicki Hovanessian and her husband, Dr. Raffi Hovanessian, residents of Indiana's First Congressional District, who have worked to improve the quality of life in Armenia, as well as in Northwest Indiana. In fact, Dr. Hovanessian serves his country and his faith as the personal physician to His Holiness the Catholicos, enabling His Holiness to travel to Rome for the recent opening of the Armenian exhibit at the Vatican library—an event attended by His Holiness the Pope. Mrs. Hovanessian has worked to increase awareness of Armenian culture through her efforts to showcase the work of Armenian artists in exhibitions here in the United States. On a national level, their efforts together were integral to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, which has grown and thrived since it was established. They played a key role in raising \$5 million for Armenian causes during His Holiness the Catholicos' recent visit to the United States to celebrate the historic event.

Two other Armenian-American families in my congressional district, Heratch and Sonya Doumanian and Ara and Rosy Yeretsian, have also contributed greatly toward charitable works in the United States and Armenia. Dr. and Mrs. Doumanian have dedicated their lives to supporting Armenians both in this country and in Armenia. These distinguished citizens were actively involved in the observance of the 100th anniversary of Armenian independence and Dr. Doumanian was recently honored for his selfless endeavors with the Crystal Globe Award from the Asian-American Medical Society. I was privileged to be there when Dr. Doumanian received that acknowledgment of his innumerable contributions to his family and his faith.

The projects undertaken by these dedicated individuals, together with hundreds of other members of the Armenian-American community, have helped to finance many essential projects in Armenia, including the construction of new schools, a mammography clinic, and a crucial roadway connecting Armenia to Nagorno Karabagh.

The Armenian people have a long and proud history. In the fourth century, they became the first nation to embrace Christianity. During World War I, the Ottoman Empire was ruled by an organization, known as the Young Turk Committee, and became allied with Germany. Amid fighting in the Ottoman Empire's eastern Anatolian provinces, the historic heartland of the Christian Armenians, Ottoman authorities ordered the deportation and execution of all Armenians in the region. By the end of 1923, virtually the entire Armenian population of Anatolia and western Armenia had been either killed or deported.

While it is important to keep the lessons of history in mind, we must also remain eternally vigilant in order to protect Armenia from new and more hostile aggressors. Even now, as we rise to commemorate the accomplishments of the Armenian people and mourn the tragedies they have suffered, Turkey and other countries are attempting to break Armenia's spirit by engaging in a debilitating blockade against this free nation.

That is why three years ago, I led the fight in the House of Representatives to free Armenia from Turkey's vicious blockade by offering an amendment to the Fiscal Year 1997 Foreign Operations appropriations bill. Under current law, U.S. economic assistance may not be given to any country that blocks humanitarian assistance from reaching another country. Despite the fact that Turkey has been blocking humanitarian aid for Armenia for many years, the President has used his waiver authority to keep economic assistance for Turkey intact. My amendment, which passed in the House by a bipartisan vote of 301–118, would have prevented the President from using his waiver authority and would have cut off U.S. economic aid to Turkey unless it allowed humanitarian aid to reach Armenia. Unfortunately, my amendment was not included in the final version of the Foreign Operations appropriations bill and the Turkish blockade of Armenia continues unabated.

Furthermore, last month, I testified before the Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, as I have for each of the past several years, to request that the subcommittee maintain its practice of reserving one-third of NIS funding for the Southern Caucasus; sixty percent of those funds for Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan; and no less than twenty-five percent of Southern Caucasus funds for Armenia alone. I also argued that the current ban on assistance to Azerbaijan should remain in place until Azerbaijan takes serious, demonstrable steps to ending their current conflict with Armenia, starting with an end to their own blockade.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues, Representatives JOHN PORTER and FRANK PALLONE, for organizing this special order to commemorate the 84th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Their efforts will not only help to bring needed attention to this tragic period in world history, but also serve as a reminder to remain vigilant in the fight to protect basic human rights and freedoms around the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, Thursday of last week, I returned to my home in Littleton, Colorado to pray for the victims of the shooting at Columbine High School. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to instruct conferees for H.R. 1141, the Supplemental Appropriations Bill (rollcall No. 96).

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS AND WORKFORCE IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bill to amend the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act. The legislation would simply extend the filing fee exemption to all elementary and secondary schools.

The American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act increased the number of H1-B visas available over a series of years. This legislation also called for a \$500 fee to be paid by the employer to file their H1-B visa application. However, this act also contained a provision that exempted institutes of higher education, non-profit research groups, and governmental research institutes from paying the filing fee. The exemption was afforded to these groups to help offset the cost of trying to employ talented workers from abroad.

I represent part of Houston, Texas. Back home my wife is an algebra teacher in Aldine High School. She recently told me of their teacher recruiting efforts. The Aldine Independent School District is much like other district on or near the border. These school districts are constantly searching for talented, experienced teachers for our children. School districts on or near the border will even try to recruit teachers from abroad, who are experienced, bilingual, and who would be a great addition to any school's staff.

The legislation I just introduced would extend the filing fee exemption to all of our schools and will give them the opportunity to recruit the most educated, talented, and experienced teachers for our students. By offsetting the cost of the application, our elementary and secondary schools could look to find the best teachers or specialists, and they could use the \$500 filing fee to provide other education services for our schools.

A TRIBUTE TO ELVA AND JOSEPH RIBAUDO

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special couple Elva and Joseph Ribaud. Elva and Joseph's love for each other, their community, and children exemplify the old-fashioned values this country was founded on. Recently they celebrated a milestone few couples reach. Elva and Joseph Ribaud celebrated fifty years of marriage.

To mark the milestone, a party was recently held in Fresno, California, where over 60 people turned out to honor this wonderful couple. Among the guests were their two beautiful children and their four adorable grandchildren.

In 1952, three years after getting married, the young couple moved into their first house. They still live in that house 47 years later. As this century come to a close they have no plans of moving out of their beloved home. Their devotion to this home, neighborhood, and community is unequalled.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring Elva and Joseph Ribaud. Their steadfast love, their devotion to their community, neighborhood and home and their love of children are qualities every American should strive to duplicate.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ELOY AGUILAR

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great public service career of one San Antonian. Over the past 25 years, Mr. Eloy Aguilar has served the constituents of the 20th district of Texas as district director for my predecessor and father, Henry B. Gonzalez.

Twenty-five years ago, Eloy began his career of service and over the years he has shown great dedication and commitment to the constituents of the 20th district and all the people of San Antonio. There have been countless changes since he began his career in 1974, but the one thing that has not changed is Eloy's dedication. He has devoted many hours, evenings and weekends to the work of the people. Though he had served the community of San Antonio for a quarter of a century and was ready for retirement, Eloy continued his role as district director for me during the transition from my father's lengthy term through the first months of my own.

In just a few days, Eloy will enter retirement. I take this opportunity to thank him for his tireless service to the constituents of the 20th district and to the Gonzalez family. His presence will be greatly missed. Eloy, we wish you all the best.

GUILLIAN-BARRE SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY, MAY 1, 1999

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share information about Guillian-Barre Syndrome Day on Saturday, May 1, 1999.

"GBS Awareness Day" is an effort to help educate the public and to focus attention on Guillian-Barre Syndrome. GBS is an inflammatory disorder of the peripheral nerves. It is characterized by the rapid onset of weakness and often, paralysis of the legs, arms, breathing muscles, and face. Although most people recover, this can take months, and some have long-term disabilities. It is important to note that GBS can develop in any person at any age, regardless of gender or ethnic background.

Although a great number of cases developed from the 1976 swine flu vaccine, almost 50 percent occur shortly after a viral infection such as a sore throat or diarrhea. This should bring home how susceptible we all are to this baffling disorder which is unpredictable and as of yet, its cause is unknown.

In 1980, in response to the growing number of cases, Robert and Estelle Benson founded the Guillian-Barre Syndrome Foundation Inter-

national. The foundation has developed 130 chapters to help serve the needs of patients, families, and friends while at the same time raise money to fund medical research. The foundation is proud to have on its medical advisory board some of the world's leading experts on GBS, as well as physicians who themselves have the disorder.

One of GBS Foundation cofounders, Mr. Ralph Neas, has played a vital role in bringing awareness to the community through his work at the local Montgomery County Chapter. It is the mission of those who have been affected by this sometimes devastating disease to assure that everyone is aware of the established support system and to better educate the community on the facts and symptoms of Guillian-Barre Syndrome.

I congratulate the foundation on their efforts and wish them great success in their mission.

IN HONOR OF RICARDO DIAZ AND BOBBI MARSELLS

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to share with my colleagues my appreciation and regard for Mr. Ricardo Diaz and Ms. Bobbi Marsells, of the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee. Today, Monday, April 26, 1999, the residents of Milwaukee's Hillside Public Housing Development are honoring Ricardo and Bobbi for their work to revitalize Hillside.

Ask anyone familiar with HUD's HOPE VI public housing revitalization program, and they'll tell you that Hillside's transformation wasn't just another 'revitalization'; it was more like a resurrection. In 1993, most of the residents in Hillside lived below the poverty line and had no earned income at all, the facilities were ugly and outmoded, the neighborhood was plagued with drugs and crime, and most public housing applicants preferred to wait longer for help than to move there. Today, earned income is way up, poverty and crime are way down, the design and appearance of the buildings and neighborhood are contemporary, attractive, and functional, and Hillside has a waiting list of eager would-be residents.

Hillside is special not just for Milwaukee, but as an example for the national of what public housing can be. Hillside shows us that revitalization means more than just, safe, structurally sound, and comfortable buildings. Hillside demonstrates that co-locating supportive services offered in partnership with committed, community-based organizations can help public housing residents to work their way out of poverty. Hillside also reminds us that removing design barriers like dead-end streets and tree-line screens, and actually integrating a public housing development into the surrounding neighborhood, can reduce crime and raise the quality of life for the residents of the development.

Many people contributed to Hillside's transformation, but the indispensable element, the driving force that made it happen, was the team of Ricardo Diaz and Bobbi Marsells. Ricardo and Bobbi helped political leaders convince HUD that the revitalization strategy was sound and they built and energized a coalition

of local supporters. As a result, Milwaukee won a \$47.5 million HOPE VI award that made Hillside's remarkable transformation possible. They also took a very personal and active role in the implementation of Hillside's HOPE VI project, and the end result is a reflection of their commitment and vision.

Ricardo and Bobbi were not content to stop at Hillside. They worked tirelessly over the past few years to help secure a \$34 million HOPE VI grant to revitalize the Parklawn Public Housing Development. Today, they are planning Parklawn's transformation, and I am confident that a few years from now, Parklawn will reflect the same innovative vision that Hillside represents today.

Mr. Speaker, very few people can look back on a body of work and say that they helped change a whole community and set a new standard for the nation. Fewer people still can say that they're planning to do it again. Because of their determination, their devotion, their ingenuity, their charm, and their very, very hard work, Ricardo Diaz and Bobbi Marsells are among the those few. On behalf of the people of Milwaukee, I thank them for their efforts to make our city a better place to live.

IN HONOR OF THE TENTH ANNI-
VERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE
SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the sister city relationship between Yuba City, CA, an agricultural community which I represent, and Fujishiro, located in the Ibaraki Prefecture of Japan. Over the course of the last ten years, this relationship has allowed for educational, cultural, industrial, community and governmental exchanges which have benefitted the residents of both cities.

In July of 1989, a delegation from Fujishiro came to Yuba City and a declaration of intent to enter a sister city agreement was completed. Other visits ensued, culminating in a signing ceremony in Yuba City in November 1989. In February 1990, a Yuba City delegation traveled to Fujishiro for a similar joint signing. In the ensuing 10 years, there have been several exchange delegations of adults and students.

Sutter County Supervisor Dennis Nelson, President of the Sister City Association, has encouraged the relationship with Fujishiro in order to provide the citizens of both cities with a better understanding of each other through exchanges which enhance the educational and economic well-being of each city.

These exchanges have allowed hundreds of children and adults to have "once in a life time experiences" and to build friendships that span the Pacific Ocean, contributing to peace and prosperity by transcending cultural diversities through realizing our similarities and understanding our cultural differences.

The citizenry of Fujishiro-machi have provided vision, leadership and countless hours of volunteer time furthering the Sister City Relationship, providing significant cultural benefits not only to the Yuba City delegations, but also for the people of Fujishiro.

The International Friendship Association of Fujishiro was formed by involved citizens, businessmen and government leaders to promote the newly established Sister City Relationship between the two communities. I rise to recognize just a few:

Yasuo Kobayashi-san, Mayor of Fujishiro, has provided leadership through personal and civic involvement and pursuit to the goals of our Sister City Relationship. He has accompanied a number of delegations from Fujishiro-machi to Yuba City. His achievements in furthering the Sister City bond have awarded him great respect throughout the community in Yuba City.

Mamoru Sakamoto-san, President of the International Friendship Association of Fujishiro and former President of the Fujishiro Town Council, is recognized for his personal and civic involvement in pursuit of the goals of the Sister City relationship.

Yukio Takegasa-san, Secretary General of the International Friendship Association and a rice farmer, became acquainted with Sutter County as an exchange student and assured the success of the sister city relationship. Today, involved in international trade, he continues to frequent the Yuba City area many times a year.

Shin Kawaguchi-san, former president of the International Friendship Association of Fujishiro is recognized for his personal involvement and relentless pursuit of the goals of our Sister City Relationship by being awarded the honor of "Honorary Citizen" of Yuba City.

And lastly, it is fitting to pay tribute to Hisao Yoshida, the late mayor of Fujishiro, for his vision and leadership in the search for a sister city relationship. He accompanied early delegations from Fujishiro-machi to Yuba City to experience our lifestyle and build everlasting friendships.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating the citizens of Yuba City, CA and Fujishiro, Japan, on their tenth anniversary as sister cities. I extend my best wishes to both cities as they celebrate the happy occasion this month in Japan, and wish them many more years of friendship, cooperation, and cultural exchange.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TRINI-
DAD TROJANS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today in recognition of a group of young athletes from the Fifth Congressional District for an outstanding year in athletic achievement. On Saturday, December 12, 1998, the Trinidad Trojans became the first Henderson County high school football team to gain a state football championship in any division, by winning the six-man state championship game. This team of exceptional young athletes displayed the determination and tenacity required to achieve a perfect season by finishing the year with an unblemished record of 15-0.

I would also like to recognize the Trojans' Coach, Kevin Ray for guiding these young men through training, practice and each test

they met on the gridiron. The lessons that we learn from our High School Coaches apply throughout our lives and will resonate with Coach Ray's players for years to come. Thank you Coach Ray for your leadership and for preparing these players to achieve such monumental goals. I wish you luck in the 1999 season and Godspeed to your graduating seniors. Way to go Trojans!

INTRODUCING THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA \$5,000 HOMEBUYER
CREDIT ACT OF 1999

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have chosen today to introduce the District of Columbia \$5,000 Homebuyer Credit Act of 1999, a permanent version of my \$5,000 homebuyer credit, because Franklin Raines and the Fannie Mae have significantly increased the credit's value to D.C. residents by monetizing the \$5,000 credit. This means that D.C. residents will be able to convert the \$5,000 homebuyer credit to cash to help make the down payment on a house. The credit alone will be the down payment on a \$100,000 house in the District. As a result, for a \$100,000 house, no down payment will be necessary.

I am pleased that the President has already agreed to a one-year extension of the credit in his budget, and I am hopeful that Congress will approve this extension. The President acted because, like the Congress, he realizes that if the District is to regain permanent solvency, there is no substitute for rapidly increasing the number of residents. The indispensable increase in the home sales we are seeing in the city today cannot continue without a stable incentive that will be here for the foreseeable future. The tax base loss has been so devastating that the job before us is literally one of repopulation. The District has not yet regained a tax base sufficient to sustain the city. Its competitive position with the suburbs means it will not regain its tax base without very substantial incentives.

The \$5,000 homebuyer credit, limited by income, has proven itself as cheap way for the federal government to have a large effect on reviving the city. The credit has been significantly responsible for the phenomenal result that D.C. is now number one in home sales in the country. Home sales in the District increased an extraordinary 50% last year, "the fastest pace in the nation," according to a local analysis. We have gone from 14,206 homesales in 1997, when the credit was enacted, to 21,406 last year. We have come from a few years back when people couldn't sell to today, when people can't buy. This is why Fannie Mae's effort to increase the supply of affordable housing and to monetize the tax credit are so welcome.

The \$5,000 homebuyer credit, coupled with a rapid increase in housing stock and investment, are the best hope for increasing our population on a permanent basis. When people buy homes, they lay down roots and are less likely to flee. The District has already lost three times the population in this decade as the city lost during the entire 1980s, and D.C. is still losing population. The credit helped

stimulate new population and could ultimately help turn the city's population loss around.

For years, I have searched for natural ways to increase revenue for the District. My large tax cut bill, the progressive flat tax, is a major leap forward and is still the most important initiative we could take to make the nation's capital thrive on its own. I will soon be announcing a bill to make the entire city an enterprise zone. It will spread citywide the lucrative tax breaks for D.C. businesses I won in the 1997 Taxpayer Relief Act.

However, as the city looks for revenue, it must not lose sight of the reality that there can be no permanent increase in revenue without a permanent increase in our population. Investment in housing is the best way to achieve not only a livable city in all eight wards, but a thriving city of taxpaying residents who own their own homes.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation critical to the continued revitalization of the nation's capital.

WESTERN PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION HONORED ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Western Propane Gas Association on the auspicious occasion of their 50th anniversary.

Western Propane Gas Association has spent the last fifty years breaking down the barriers and building bridges between its members in the West and legislators in California and Washington. From legislative advocacy to economical insurance, its efforts promote industry awareness and provide a great service to their members and to the legislators representing our shared constituency.

Western Propane Gas Association maintains constant communication with state regulatory agencies through its interaction and lobbying. At the state level, WPGA is a pivotal voice at the California Assembly and Senate hearings, presenting the industry position on legislative topics. Through their Government Affairs Committee, WPGA informs its members of valuable federal regulatory alerts, safety bulletins and an industry specific bi-monthly newsletter. WPGA provides its members with professional and knowledgeable assistance on numerous issues that impact the propane industry.

Recently WPGA accepted the responsibility of managing the propane industry's interests in the growing field of Clean Air Alternate Motor Fuels. They assembled a Clean Fuels Task Force to bring their members research, testimony, and technical information from regulatory boards and engine manufacturers. WPGA's leadership in alternative fuel regulations is crucial not only to the success of their members, but also to the safety and preservation of its environment.

In addition to its legislative review and advocacy agenda, the Western Propane Gas Association also provides liaison advisory services to its members. For example, WPGA maintains contacts and facilitates interaction with

statewide organizations such as the California Highway Patrol, the Air Resources Board, The Department of Industrial Safety, and many other local regulatory agencies.

In an industry where change is constant and technology is king, WPGA has taken a leadership role in developing standards for safety and training. The Association holds educational seminars on topics ranging from an Emergency Response Rollover Program and the Certified Employee Training Program to the Gas Check Program. WPGA also brings crucial situation training to its members through its Fire School Seminars. The fast-changing regulations and technologies of the propane and fuel industry needs a membership organization dedicated to upholding the highest standards of safety and service, and WPGA has proven its commitment to its industry and community.

Mr. Speaker, Western Propane Gas Association brings a united, regional voice for local businesses that might otherwise be lost amongst today's regulatory environment. I rise today to commend the organization and its members for their successes and offer my best wishes for the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. DONALD DIX

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the enormous accomplishments and contributions made by Dr. Donald Dix of McLean, Virginia, a distinguished public servant who is retiring from the Department of Defense after 18 years of government service.

Dr. Donald M. Dix will retire as Director of the Office of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering. During this time, Dr. Dix managed two critical national technology programs—the Integrated High Performance Turbine Engine Technology program and the Integrated High Payoff Rocket Propulsion Technology program.

The Integrated High Performance Turbine Engine Technology (IHPTET) program aims to double the national turbine engine performance capability by the turn of the century. The F-117, B-2, F-15E, F-16C/D, and Tactical Tomahawk are possible because of the leading edge work of the IHPTET.

The objective of the Integrated High Payoff Rocket Propulsion Technology (IHRPT) program is to double the national rocket propulsion capability by 2010. Systems such as the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle, X-33, AIM-9X, and Trident D-5 Life Extension are supported by the fine work conducted by the IHRPT.

Dr. Dix's leadership on both of these programs have allowed this country to maintain its edge in these critical technology areas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Donald Dix for his significant contribution toward maintaining this country's national security. I wish him well in his retirement and all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK, MICHAEL AND SEAMUS DOYLE

HON. PAT DANNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, Peter and Virginia Doyle of Kansas City, Missouri, it is my privilege to bring to your attention the exemplary service of their three sons to the United States Army. Their sons are Major Patrick Doyle, Captain Michael Doyle, and Captain Seamus Doyle.

Major Patrick Doyle was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, in May 1988. He served as Platoon Leader in the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment in Stuttgart, Germany. From there he was assigned as a Rifle Platoon Leader at the United Nations Command Security Force-Joint Security Area, Pan Mun Jom, Korea. His next assignment was at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He commanded Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 325 Airborne Infantry Regiment. He is Airborne, Air Assault, and Ranger Qualified.

Major Patrick Doyle is currently assigned as a Foreign Service Officer and has completed Language Training at the Defense Language Institute, Presidio, Monterey, California. He recently completed his Masters degree in National Security Affairs at the Naval Post-Graduate School in Monterey and is now posted at the U.S. Embassy in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Captain Michael Doyle was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve upon graduation from the University of Kansas in May, 1990. While enrolled in the R.O.T.C. program at the University of Kansas, he spent six weeks in Troup Leadership Training in Korea. He attended the Officer's Basic Course at Fort Riley. He has served in various units as Platoon Leader and Executive Officer in both Kansas City, Missouri and Athens, Georgia. He is currently assigned as the S-4 at the 357th Corps Support Battalion in Athens, Georgia. Michael is employed by BellSouth Company as a Market Manager in Atlanta, Georgia. He received his Masters degree in corporate finance from Kennesaw State University, Atlanta, Georgia.

Captain Seamus Doyle was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant Artillery Officer upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, in May 1994. He attended the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, and is Airborne, Air Assault, and Ranger qualified. He was assigned as a Fire Direction Officer and Platoon Leader in the 1st Battalion, 8th Field Artillery, 25th Infantry Division (light) at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Following the activation of 1-8 FA, he served as the 25th ID(L) Division Current Operations Officer. He is currently assigned as an Installation Plans Officer at Fort Carson, Colorado.

THE MERRILL S. PARKS, JR., FBI BUILDING

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will name the soon-

to-be completed Federal Bureau of Investigation building in downtown New Haven in memory of Special Agent Merrill S. Parks, Jr. It is an honor to do so.

Before his untimely death earlier this month, Merrill Parks served as special agent in charge for the State of Connecticut, a post he held since 1994. During his time in New Haven, Special Agent Parks gained the respect and admiration of local law enforcement, and it was at their suggestion, and the urging of those he served most closely within the New Haven FBI office, that the new FBI building bear his name.

During his 30-year career, Special Agent Parks battled organized crime in the FBI's New York Division and worked with the Drug Enforcement Agency in the fight against drugs. Before coming to New Haven in 1994, Parks served with distinction as the Assistant Special Agent in charge of the Houston, TX, division.

It is altogether fitting that agents based in New Haven will work in a building named for a man who exemplified the best in law enforcement. I would also like to include in the RECORD a letter of support from FBI Director Louis J. Freeh and to thank him for his support.

Most of all, I want to pass along my deepest condolences to the family of Special Agent Parks. I hope to see them in New Haven very soon when we officially unveil the Merrill S. Parks, Jr., Federal Building.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROSA DELAUNO,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN DELAUNO: I want to thank you for agreeing to sponsor legislation naming the new federal building that will house the FBI's New Haven Field Office after Merrill S. Parks, Jr. Merrill was, until his recent death, the Special Agent in Charge of the office, and a widely respected member of the local law enforcement community. He had a long and distinguished career with the FBI.

All of us at the FBI support this endeavor. It seems a fitting tribute to an agent who devoted his life to public service and public safety.

I am hoping that your leadership on this matter will ensure its swift passage. From all of us at the FBI, I want to again express our gratitude for your attention to this matter, and your continuing support for law enforcement.

Sincerely yours,

LOUIS J. FREEH,
DIRECTOR.

HONORING MADELEINE APPEL

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Madeleine Appel, who is this year's recipient of the Houston Chapter of the American Jewish Committee's Helene Susman Woman of Prominence Award. Helene Susman was a widowed mother of two who became the first

woman from Texas admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. When she died in 1978, she left a legacy of a commitment to Judaism, a belief in the importance of contributing to the community, and the need for individuals to act responsibly and with integrity at all times.

Madeleine Appel has demonstrated her commitment to her profession, community, and family in such a manner as to distinguish herself as a role model for other women to follow.

Madeleine Appel presently serves as administration manager in the Comptroller's Office of the City of Houston. Her work experience with the City of Houston has included a number of positions: administrator/senior council aide, Mayor Pro-Tem Office; Houston City Council from 1996–1997; senior council aide, Houston City Council member Eleanor Tinsley 1980–1995; and administrator, Election Central, ICASA. She has also worked for Rice University.

She began her career as a journalist working as an assistant women's editor and reporter at the Corpus Christi Caller and Times. Additionally, she worked as the women's editor and assistant editor for the Insider's Newsletter and as a reporter for The Houston Chronicle where she won the "Headliners Award." She received her B.A. from Smith College in political science and graduated Magna Cum Laude.

Madeleine Appel's community involvement includes Scenic America, League of Women Voters of Texas, Houston Achievement Place, Jewish Family Service, League of Women Voters of Houston, Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism, Houston Architecture Foundation, American Jewish Committee, City of Houston Affirmative Action Committee, and Leadership Houston Class XII.

Madeleine Appel has been married for 36 years to Dr. Richard F. Appel and she is the proud mother of two sons and two daughters-in-law.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Madeleine Appel for her service to her community and to Houston. She is the best of public servants and an inspiration to others who want to engage in public service.

HONORING DANA WALSH FOR HER COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Dana Walsh of Oceanside, New York for her outstanding fundraising efforts on behalf of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Miss Walsh is an eighth grade student at Oceanside Middle School where she proposed and coordinated a phone-a-thon which raised \$3,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She was inspired to fight for those who suffer from Cystic Fibrosis upon learning that the median survival age is only 29. She spent weeks organizing the evening event and in the end, tripled her original goal.

In light of the numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Miss Walsh are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

HONORING PAULINE GOLDMAN

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Las Vegas' most outstanding seniors on the occasion of her 78th birthday. Ms. Pauline Goldmann and her husband Bill retired to southern Nevada in June 1978. Although Bill died in 1991, Pauline remains one of the most active and influential seniors in Las Vegas. Throughout her life, Pauline has been a tireless advocate for working Americans. Among their many accomplishments in the battle for workers' rights, Pauline and Bill's first fight succeeded in allowing auto workers the right to leave the assembly line to use the restroom. Believe it or not, this was an unprecedented victory for auto workers. Pauline also organized the United Auto Workers Retirees Council, which remains one of Las Vegas' most vibrant and active senior groups. In addition, Pauline was instrumental in organizing the Paradise Democratic Club and the National Council of Senior Citizens, and she was a founding member of Seniors United. With all of these commitments, Pauline still finds time to be an active member of the Nevada Senior Coalition, the Executive boards of the Nevada State Democratic Party, and the UCLA Genealogy Board. Pauline was also appointed by Governor Bob Miller to serve on the Silver Haired Legislative Forum. This group, comprised of seniors from all over the state, makes recommendations to the State Government regarding senior needs and services. Pauline has been recognized by the AFL-CIO for her political volunteerism, as well as being named the Outstanding Grass Roots Democrat of 1991 by the Paradise Democratic Club. Pauline was also honored as the Family Care Giver of the Year in 1991 and was appointed to the White House Conference on Aging in 1995 by U.S. Senator RICHARD BRYAN. At the age of 78, Pauline is one busy lady, attending meeting after meeting in Las Vegas. She is well-respected and sets the highest standards of civic participation. Time and again, Pauline has proven her dedication to working families and seniors. Southern Nevada has the fastest-growing seniors population in the country, so, to all the new seniors moving to Las Vegas, I would like to say one thing—you could not be luckier to have someone as devoted as Pauline working on your behalf. At this time, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this outstanding senior who sets the standard for civic virtue, not only in Las Vegas, Nevada but throughout our Nation.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE BIRTH
OF SIMON LANIEL COPELAND**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome a brand new constituent to the Second Congressional District of North Carolina, Master Simon Laniel Copeland. Simon was born on March 31, 1999 to proud parents Tony and Monique Copeland and to big brother Elliot Laniel Copeland. I would like to congratulate the Copelands on the wonderful new addition to their family.

As a father of three, I know the immeasurable joy and pride that children bring into your life. Their innocence keeps you young-at-heart. Through their inquiring minds and child's wide-eyed wonder, they show you the world in a fresh, new way and change your perspective on life. A little miracle, a new baby holds all the potential of what human beings can achieve. Through this new life God has blessed the Copeland family.

I have known Tony Copeland for many years, and I know that he will be as wonderful a father to Simon and Elliot as he has always been a friend to me. I wish Simon and his family much love, joy, and success in life.

BLOOMFIELD CITIZENS COUNCIL
AWARDS**HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a member of Pittsburgh residents who will be honored on April 30th with Bloomfield Citizens Council Awards. Every year, the Bloomfield Citizens Council gives out these awards to recognize members of the community who have, in some way, improved the quality of life in the Bloomfield neighborhood of Pittsburgh. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the 1999 award winners for their efforts to make Bloomfield a better place to live.

Ruth and Vic Infante have been selected as the 1999 recipients of the Mary Cercone Outstanding Citizen Award. This award is given to individuals who demonstrate "an unselfish commitment to others and a deep love for the community of Bloomfield." Ruth and Vic Infante have been actively involved in volunteer activities and community organizations like the Bloomfield Senior Center and the Bloomfield Citizens Council for more than 40 years.

A Community Commitment Award will go to Barry Deems who has worked for the last 14 years as Vice President of the Western Pennsylvania Hospital to promote good relations between the hospital and the community. His efforts to make the hospital's new facilities fit harmoniously into the surrounding community have been greatly appreciated.

Gloria LeDonne will receive a Neighborhood Loyalty Award for her dedicated work as a member, secretary, and president of the Bloomfield Business Association. She is to be commended for her ability to successfully bal-

ance the competing demands of running a business, actively involving herself in civic affairs, and raising a family.

Bernice Bianco Palmieri will receive an Excellence in Education Award for her 37 years of involvement in education. A graduate of Carlow College with a Masters Degree in education, she taught at St. Joseph School in Bloomfield for 27 years and served as Assistant Principle for seven of those years. She was also actively involved in the consolidation of three local Catholic schools.

An Excellence in Education Award will also be given to Virginia Gualdaroni DiPucci for a career in education stretching over thirty years. Mrs. DiPucci earned degrees from four local universities—the University of Pittsburgh, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Duquesne University, and Carnegie Mellon University—and she used her education to serve local children, first as a teacher and later as a principal at local schools.

An Extra Mile Award will be presented to Bill Kovach for his efforts as a volunteer photographer for many local organizations. He has photographed countless community events for local papers like the Valley Mirror, the Allegheny Journal and the Daily Messenger. He provided a particularly important community service by documenting the 1987 train derailment. He has also volunteered this time to a number of local civic organizations.

Public Safety Awards will be given to C.O.P. Officer Kurt Kondrich and C.O.P. Officer W. Scot Green, who have worked diligently as Bike Patrol officers to prevent crime in Bloomfield and keep the community safe.

The Bloomfield Citizens Council will also present a number of awards for Christmas decorations this year. John Scanga will receive the Keeping Christ in Christmas Award for his Nativity scene display. Brian Scanlon will receive the Most Outstanding and Completely Decorated Home Award this year for putting Christmas lights on "anything that couldn't walk away." Phyllis Kutosky and Lucille Totorea—a mother-and-daughter team—will once again receive the Most Elaborate Property Decoration Award for decorating their long double lot. And finally, the Most Creative Design Award will be presented to Mark Wohlfarth for creating a 36-foot high outline of a white Christmas tree on a blank wall of his home and decorating it with large red bows. These five individuals all helped bring the joy of the holiday season to their neighbors.

In closing, let me just say that all of the individuals receiving 1999 Bloomfield Citizens Council awards have made important contributions to the quality of life in Bloomfield. On behalf of the residents of Bloomfield and the rest of the 14th Congressional District, I thank them for their efforts and congratulate them on their selection as recipients of 1999 Bloomfield Citizens Council awards.

COMPULSORY LICENSING IS NOT
AN ASSAULT ON INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY RIGHTS**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am thankful that today, by an overwhelming majority of 422 to

1, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1554, the Satellite Home Viewer Act of 1999, which I supported. This legislation ensures that many of my constituents will continue to receive television network programming. The bill extends for five years compulsory licenses, which require superstations and distant broadcast stations to allow their signal to be retransmitted by satellite carriers. In order to promote competition, the bill sets specific prices at which the intellectual property owners, or broadcasters, will be paid for having their signal rebroadcasted.

It is ironic that even as we vote to allow compulsory licensing today, we are interfering in another country's attempt to address a public health crisis through giving consumers access to international markets and through the use of compulsory licensing. It is estimated 3.2 million South Africans are HIV positive, including 45 percent of its military. One in five South African pregnant women test positive for HIV. Access to affordable medicine is also a critical issue for the elderly and others suffering from chronic diseases and medical conditions. Prescription drugs are not currently an option for many patients in South Africa, where the drugs often cost more than they do in the United States. The 1997 per capita income in South Africa was estimated to be only \$6,200 annually.

To address the problem, President Mandela and the South African Government enacted a law in 1997 to reform the country's prescription drug marketplace. The law amends the South African Medicines Act to allow prescription drugs to be purchased in the international marketplace where prices are lower. It would also allow compulsory licensing in some cases. Regulations implementing the law have not been implemented while the law is being constitutionally challenged in South African courts by drug makers in their country.

However, the pharmaceutical industry has persuaded the United States government to work to have the South African law repealed. In February, the United States Department of State released a report titled, U.S. Government Efforts to Negotiate the Repeal, Termination or Withdrawal of Article 15(c) of the South African Medicines and Related Substances Act of 1965.

While special interest groups have tried to convince members of Congress and the administration that implementation of the South African Medicines Act would cause violations of international intellectual property rights agreements, I have seen no evidence that such violations are likely to occur. Compulsory licensing is not an assault on intellectual property rights. Instead, it is part of the copyright and patent systems which enable the interest of the public to be served. Compulsory licensing is permitted under Article 31 of the WTO Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). In fact, French law authorizes compulsory licensing when medicines are "only available to the public in insufficient quantity or quality or at abnormally high prices."

Today, the House of Representatives wisely exercised its power to continue the use of compulsory licensing in the broadcast industry to allow consumers to have access to broadcast signals, that in many instances they would otherwise be unable to receive. Certainly, the United States government should recognize the need of a government to allow

its citizens to have access to needed medicine in order to address a public health crisis and should not interfere with the situation in South Africa.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF
THE EMPLOYEES OF ROCKLAND
COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of the employees of Rockland County Sewer District No. 1 in collecting over 7 billion gallons of sewerage annually, treating it, and returning clean water to the environment and the community.

As the 106th Congress works to protect and provide clean water to the communities of our nation, we must not forget those who make our legislation a reality. Their dedication protects each one of us from the pollutants which threaten the health and welfare of our children and our families.

In this spirit, the employees of Rockland County Sewer District No. 1 will be celebrating "Water Week," from May 2nd through May 8th, 1999. This event will celebrate the way people are working to protect and improve our water. It will provide the citizens of Rockland County with tours and exhibits promoting clean water initiatives; and will recognize those individuals who have dedicated their lives to protecting their community water supply.

Once again, I would like to thank the employees of Rockland County Sewer District No. 1 for their hard work and continued dedication.

TRIBUTE TO VETERANS OF FOREIGN
WARS OF THE UNITED
STATES

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW). The VFW is dedicated to protecting the rights and families of those who have served in the United States military. This year marks the 100-year anniversary of the VFW.

For over 200 years, the U.S. Armed Forces have fought for freedom and protected the natural born rights of every American citizen. Blood, sweat and tears of these men and women have built and solidified our great nation into a worldwide stronghold. In 1899, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States established itself a defender of the American veteran. To ensure their protection, the VFW continually echoes the soldier's voices through the halls of Congress and stands tall for widows whose spouses died across vast oceans and in the depths of foreign jungles. The VFW promotes veterans not only in times of war, but also when they return from battle, in times of peace.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise to honor the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. All Americans, past, present, and future, deeply appreciate their service and devotion.

CELEBRATING 300 YEARS OF THE
SIKH COMMUNITY

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on April 10th, this city was treated to the sight of the thousands of Americans of the Sikh religion marching through Washington to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Sikh's most sacred event, the founding of the "Khalsa" (Community of Sikh believers). For Sikhs in this country and around the world, it was a sacred and inspiring day.

However, both the reporting of the march and several subsequent comments placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, made it appear as if the march was something it was not. For some reason, the comments in the newspaper and elsewhere made it appear as if the entire U.S. Sikh community was here to advocate separation from India, home of the world's largest Sikh community. This was simply not true. The Sikhs who came to Washington traveled here to show pride in their religion and their way of life. They came to celebrate the deep and abiding three-century heritage as found among the 22 million Sikhs worldwide.

It is a heritage that has enriched both this nation and the Sikhs home country, India. Sikhs have served at all levels of government in India, including the Presidency. They have played a key role in India's economic and military development. The vast majority of Sikhs are committed to India and its continued progress. The Sikh community is held in high regard by all Indians.

Sadly, a small number of Sikhs here seem to have been determined to pervert the purpose of the march. It was their intent to promote a narrow agenda—a partial dissolution of the world's most populous democracy, India. While this small minority is vocal and active, it is a very small minority of American and world Sikhs. But being active, it was their comments that got reported in the press and reprinted in the RECORD. What they espouse, a separate homeland for Sikhs has virtually no support in the Sikhs traditional homeland, the Punjab of India, and very little support here in the United States. And for good reason. Rupturing the territorial integrity of India invites greater instability in a region of the world where U.S. interests are best served by stability.

Mr. Speaker, the April 10 march showed the finest of America—freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom of speech. The great numbers of Sikhs who visited our city recently came here to celebrate their religion and their way of life. Any suggestion that these Sikhs came here with a political agenda is incorrect and does a disservice to the community at large.

THE TAX EQUITY PRESERVATION
ACT OF 1999

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced the Tax Equity Preservation Act of 1999, H.R. 1561, to repeal the Alternative Minimum Tax, the AMT, on individuals.

The AMT must be one of the most perverse provisions found in the entire complex of the Internal Revenue Code. Like many of the taxes designed to make Americans pay their "fair share" to the government, the AMT is very inefficient and subjects taxpayers to a form of double jeopardy.

Over the last few months as Americans prepared their 1998 tax returns, they faced an array of tax deductions, exclusions and exemptions which, depending on their circumstances, they could use to legitimately reduce their tax burden. For example, the Code includes personal and dependent deductions. In addition, Congress recently provided parents with a tax credit for each of their children to help with the cost of raising the kids. There are yet other tax credits available to help offset the cost of education such as HOPE Scholarships and Lifetime Learning credits. Taxpayers may also deduct their medical expenses when they exceed 7.5 percent of their income.

More and more taxpayers are finding that, after they fill out their tax forms and take all their legitimate deductions and exclusions, Uncle Sam is telling them that they did not pay enough taxes. They must then start all over with a new stack of tax forms and compute their Alternative Minimum Tax. Unfortunately, many of the deductions, exemptions and credits available under the ordinary income tax are not available, or are reduced, under the AMT.

For example, taxpayers subject to the AMT may not take personal and dependent exemptions. State and local taxes are exempt under the ordinary income tax, but not under the AMT. Tax credits for children and education credits cannot be used to reduce the AMT burden. Even the deductibility of medical costs is more restrictive under the AMT, with only expenses exceeding 10 percent of income eligible for deductions.

Although designed to prevent "rich" taxpayers from avoiding taxes, because the AMT exemptions and deductions have not kept pace with inflation, more and more middle income taxpayers are falling victim to the AMT. The AMT exemption amounts are only \$33,750 for single filers and \$45,000 for married couples filing joint returns. Congress last updated these in 1993 and did not index them for inflation.

The Tax Equity Preservation Act will relieve taxpayers from the burden of filling out two separate stacks of tax forms and paying higher taxes. Although we could help middle-income Americans by increasing the AMT exemptions and indexing them for inflation, that would only add more complexity to the Code. The better way to preserve tax equity is to simply abolish the AMT.

I commend H.R. 1561, the Tax Equity Preservation Act of 1999, to the attention of my

colleagues and ask them to join me in the effort to repeal the AMT on individuals by co-sponsoring this bill.

APRIL IS PREVENTION OF
CRUELTY TO ANIMALS MONTH

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, April is Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month. At this time each year, parents, teachers, and humane educators in small towns and large cities across America teach young people to take proper care of their family cats and dogs. They also teach them to spay and neuter their pets to prevent unwanted litters. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has for more than 130 years taught us and our children these important lessons. Today, I ask the Congress to join with families, educators, veterinarians, and fine organizations such as the Prevent-a-Litter Coalition and the ASPCA, in urging the Postmaster General to issue a spay/neuter stamp so that this important message will appear on millions of pieces of mail in the year 2000. Millions of stamps means millions of messages, which will save millions of lives.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month is also a most appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, for all of us in the Congress to support pending legislation which will help alleviate pain, fear and suffering in animals. I urge my colleagues to support HR 443, The Downed Animal Protection Act, which would require the euthanization at stockyards, feedlots, and auctions, of farm animals such as cows, pigs and sheep, if they have been so badly injured or weakened they can no longer walk on their own. I also urge for HR 453, the Pet Safety and Protection Act, which would make it more difficult for family pets to be stolen and illegally sold to research facilities. More and more of our constituents are writing and asking for improvements in the way animals are treated. Accordingly, supporting humane legislation is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to be responsive to the American public in a positive, bipartisan way.

HONORING AND ANSWERING THE
FOURTH DISTRICT OF COLORADO

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Colorado's Fourth Congressional District and the opinions of my constituents concerning the direction their country is taking. Recently, I surveyed thousands of citizens about issues important to them. I would like to report to you the results of that opinion survey.

The survey asked, "What is the single most important issue facing our country today?" Respondents came back with a whole host of answers including tax relief, preserving social security, need for an effective missile defense system, the failing farm economy, too much

government, high taxes, improving our children's education, etc. But the prevailing concern is a "lack of moral leadership," "honesty," "corrupt administration," "moral deterioration," "decline in ethics and morals," and "moral decay." This message was repeated over and over again. The people of Colorado understand the qualities our Founding Fathers identified in order to continue the stability of our Republic, requiring the cultivation of personal morality and responsibility, and courage to stand up for those values.

The number concerned for our country's moral leadership was followed closely by their outrage over President Clinton's decision to involve the U.S. military in Kosovo. Folks support a strong military but they urged our troops' return from the civil dispute in Kosovo. To date, I have heard from no one supporting this recent military venture of the President's.

The second question asked, "What is the single most important issue to you or your family?" The answers to this question mirrored those they believe are important to the country. They are demanding honorable and moral leadership of this country, believing it will cause a renewal of responsibility, morality and liberty in our society.

The survey continued, asking what people think is the biggest challenge for our schools. Responses included funds not reaching the classrooms; class sizes too big; worries over drugs and violence; Federal Government involvement in our local schools; lack of discipline and parental involvement; curriculum not teaching the basics; ridding the classrooms of the teachers union; need for school choice; and demand for more local control. While the concerns are varied, it is unanimous that people are concerned about the quality of education their children are receiving.

Fourth District Coloradans, more than two-to-one, oppose partial birth abortions and overwhelmingly oppose second amendment gun rights being restricted. But, perhaps the most compelling and almost unanimous response comes in support of requiring Congress to balance the budget and reform taxes.

The 105th Congress provided Americans with the first balanced Federal budget and the first budget surplus since 1969. Since the Republican Congress proved we can balance the budget, people want us to ensure we will balance the budget permanently. It is for this reason I am proud to sponsor H.J. Res. 1, the Balanced Budget Amendment Resolution of 1999. With a permanently balanced budget, the Federal Government will be forced to prioritize money for programs important to Coloradans.

Respondents differ on whether a flat tax or consumption tax would be best, but folks are almost unanimous in believing the IRS tax code should be abolished and Americans given much-needed tax relief. Without exception, no one asked for new taxes or new government programs.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the response I received to the opinion survey. I shall consider this valuable input and share it with colleagues. Americans should keep in close touch with their elected officials. This way, we as public servants know our every move is being watched, and the measurement of our achievement depends upon the betterment of their life, and that of their families.

REGULATORY FAIRNESS AND
OPENNESS ACT OF 1999

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, crop protection tools are necessary for family farmers to provide a safe and reliable food supply to the consumer and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must use sound science to evaluate and determine which products are dependable and safe. If this is not accomplished, safe and useful crop protection products will be unavailable for use by the family farmer and the quality and affordability of wholesome food supply will be jeopardized.

For this reason, I joined several of my colleagues today in introducing the Regulatory Fairness and Openness Act of 1999. This bipartisan legislation will give EPA the ability to address potential problems with the registration and re-registration processes for crop protection tools during the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996. This bill ensures that the EPA has the capability to adequately evaluate and analyze all available, accessible data and information and to use the best science to determine which crop protection tools will be available for the family farmer. This Act does not change the FQPA standards for pesticide evaluations, it clarifies the processes employed for evaluation in order to allow for full and scientifically correct compliance with the requirements of the FQPA.

Without the Regulatory and Openness Act of 1999, many crop protection tools will be eliminated for use by agriculture, putting the farmers in the United States at a competitive disadvantage with foreign imports. These imports do not have to meet the strict regulatory requirements that our farmers must follow.

Further, if the EPA eliminates crop protection tools without allowing time for the development of new alternatives, family farmers will lose crops to pest infestations and the consumer will lose the quality and quantity of food available to them. This bill encourages and supports research into expanded information gathering on the use of crop protection tools and research into the development of new alternatives for managing pests in agriculture.

I urge my colleagues to support this very important legislation. The Regulatory Fairness and Openness Act of 1999 is important not only for agricultural America, but for all Americans. Through complete and thorough risk assessments of crop protection tools using actual and relevant data and sound science, the EPA and family farmers can continue to provide our country's citizens with the safest, most abundant food supply in the world.

THOUGHTS ON KOSOVO

HON. MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you thoughts on Kosovo from a friend back home, retired Vice Admiral Al Baciocco. His insight as a military man speaks

powerfully to the U.S. actions in the Balkans. I hope we will take the time to think through the lucid thoughts he offers.

To: HON. MARK SANFORD

From: Al Baciocco, VADM, USN (Ret), 747 Pitt Street, Mt. Pleasant, SC

DEAR MARK: As you reconvene in Washington, DC, and begin debate on many important issues, I hope that you will consider the current KOSOVO situation an issue of critical and major National Security importance. I have taken the liberty of providing you a copy of an item I wrote to other senior retired military friends a few days ago, reflecting on my feelings about this engagement we have become involved in. I have also provided a copy of one of the responses, this one especially poignant, which I received from other retired senior Admirals. I thought these items might be of interest to you—and perhaps useful in guiding your thoughts.

My somewhat wordy epistle follows:

"To all of John's (and my) Friends—

I worry that I am somewhere out in left field on this Kosovo disaster that we seem to be marching further into, despite continued opportunities for someone (anyone!) to speak up and bring the country to its senses! What we hear and see the Serb military and their leadership engaged in is grossly, morally wrong—beyond the limits of civilized toleration! Given that, it is correct that the United States and the rest of the civilized world be engaged in correcting this outrage—politically, at least; militarily, if necessary! However, the actual endeavor in which we are currently engaged—and the manner in which we have chosen (or allowed ourselves to be eased into) to carry out this endeavor is troubling.

Despite my long professional association with and personal respect for NATO—a mutual defense alliance with a proven track record for deterring aggression—I anguish that we are now engaged in a rather ambiguous mission to "deter with destruction" and to "punish" an offending European leader who clearly has no moral conscience or standards of conduct, with the United States virtually abdicating its visible position of leadership and allowing itself to be represented by a European (NATO) presence, with political and military leadership only vaguely understood by the American people and demonstrating only rather vague definition, judgment and experience. I am offended to find that briefings and statements describing this very dangerous situation are being provided by "glib" NATO political and military "spokesman", not by the elected and/or appointed, potentially-respected ranking officials of the United States. Granted, we have allowed ourselves to become involved and engaged in this NATO (European) show—albeit with some 75-80% of the resources, combat troops, munitions, and "target for ultimate blame" provided by the United States—but, in fact this engagement is truly in the vital National Security interests of the United States of America, then the nation should hear this from its leaders, both political and military, every hour and every day of its duration. We must clearly understand why we are there; we must clearly be on the field exercising bold and realistic military judgment and direction; and we must be willing, in fact, must demand—through our processes—that our national leaders, both political and military, act and be held accountable for their Constitutional and moral responsibilities!

I am deeply troubled and honestly quite offended as an American that we are expected to feel good about seeing our forces calmly (and quite professionally) go about launching cruise missiles and bombs, however accu-

rately guided, against what is perceived by the world as—and in fact, is—a fundamentally civilian infrastructure of a small, rather poor country—albeit led by a ruthless thug! We have seen this happen before in recent months—most of the time with ambiguous results, at best. All too often today, the general populace and the media seem to view the deployment and use of such military force with the same interest, fascination and concern as they view a "video game"! In my view, cruise missiles are becoming—perhaps have become—"TOO EASY" to use! Their use does not demonstrate a clear commitment of our nation's soul—and a clear commitment to the fray of a nation's soul is the only sign that history demonstrates will deter and influence a tyrant to quickly stand down from his adventure.

The National Soul is demonstrated by a willingness to commit "warriors" to the field, and to shed the blood of our young, if necessary, to achieve justice, freedom and what is morally right! Our nation was founded on these principles—and they should be overlooked, blurred, or discarded only at our peril. None of us were brought up believing that we were a nation that was capricious in the use of our military might. We were brought up as, and are a nation and a people of justice, of honesty, of principle founded on high moral ground! Have all of our men and women in positions of leadership and responsibility within our political and military hierarchy forgotten this? Has "political correctness" clouded their recall of history and our heritage, their judgment, and their courage?

We should answer the question as to the fundamental importance to the United States of America of the current situation and of our current endeavor in the Balkans. If the answer clearly measures up to the standards and principles our nation stands for, then we should openly, proudly and aggressively take the political and military lead, and complete the task—however long it takes—with our Soul and our "warriors" fully committed! If it does not, we should depart the field!

So much for "Views from the Low Country"! I hope my stream of consciousness (and conscience) is not too far off the mark!

Warm regards,

AL"

The response from another retired senior Admiral follows:

"Dear Al,

Right on the mark in my opinion. I share your views and I believe that a large number of the active duty senior leadership does as well. The military power of our country is being applied to solve the world's humanitarian problems and we are creating more problems in the process. The United States of America is no longer perceived as a protector of freedom, but it is now an enforcer of "our way of life." The image of the GI slogging through the mud or riding in the back of a jeep sharing some candy with the children of a devastated community has been replaced with cruise missiles launched from ships that are 500 miles away or from aircraft that nobody ever sees.

We need to stop this madness and return to the values that have made this country great. Tom Brokaw's book, *The Greatest Generation*, talks about these values and the

men and women who not only believed in these values, but lived them as well.

Best regards,"

WE NEED TO DEFEND OUR FREEDOM

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I have addressed this Congress a number of times regarding the very real and serious threat our country faces from ballistic missile attack. Very few citizens realize our nation, the world's only superpower, could not stop one single ballistic missile from striking American soil today. This is not due to a lack of technological capability, but rather, is a direct result of President Clinton's deliberate policy of vulnerability.

I have frequently and consistently engaged the President and his administration on this issue because I believe it is one of the most important ones facing our nation. No other issue deals so directly with the security and future of our democracy than one which concerns the very defense of our territory and our citizenry.

Today, I responded rather directly to a letter I received from Lieutenant General Lester L. Lyles, Director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO), on March 12, 1999. In his letter, General Lyles acknowledged the clear and present threat to our nation, but failed to contradict, even once, the policy of assured vulnerability established by the Clinton administration.

In composing this response, I consulted many colleagues who share my concerns. They have asked that the final draft be distributed to all Members.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I hereby submit for the RECORD, the full text of the letter I have today posted to General Lyles.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
April 15, 1999.

LT. GEN. LESTER L. LYLES,
*Director, Ballistic Missile Defense Organization,
Washington, DC*

DEAR GENERAL LYLES: Your letter of March 12, 1999, and Defense Secretary Cohen's January 20, 1999 remarks regarding our ballistic missile defense program have made clear to the Congress the reluctance of the Clinton administration to defend the American people from the growing threat of long-range ballistic missile attack. Despite the clear and growing threat posed by long-range ballistic missiles, Secretary Cohen cannot even admit the need to deploy a ballistic missile defense.

The threats are obvious and commanding. On August 31, 1998, North Korea successfully tested a ballistic missile capable of striking the United States. In July 1998, the Rumsfeld Commission issued an alarming and erudite warning on the threat and proliferation of ballistic missiles. In April 1998, Pakistan's test of an intermediate range ballistic missile set off the May 1998 nuclear arms testing race between India and Pakistan. In July 1998, Iran tested an intermediate range ballistic missile, a step in its program for building long-range ballistic missiles to attack the United States.

During 1998, we learned China has 13 long-range ballistic missiles aimed at various American cities. We also learned China is

building two new models of ICBMS which are road-mobile and capable of striking the United States. In February 1999, reports revealed China's active build-up of intermediate and short-range ballistic missiles threatening Taiwan, following in the footsteps of China's use of ballistic missiles to intimidate Taiwan in 1995 and 1996.

In 1998, in spite of grace economic problems, Russia continued construction on its new, road-mobile, long-range ballistic missile designed to pierce ballistic missile defenses, the Topol-M. In addition, Russia, operating under a decaying command and control structure, still possesses hundreds of ballistic missiles and thousands of nuclear warheads capable of destroying the United States.

The deployment of a ballistic missile defense is thoroughly warranted. The Clinton administration's policy to delay the deployment of a ballistic missile defense until the year 2005, or later, is incompatible with the purpose of the federal government's responsibility to provide for the common defense. I fear it will take a nuclear missile strike on American soil before this administration and the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO) admits to the need to deploy a ballistic missile defense.

RECORD

In 1993, the Clinton administration inherited a balanced and sophisticated ballistic missile defense program utilizing space-based interceptors, high-energy lasers, and theater missile defenses such as Navy Theater Wide (Navy Upper Tier). These space-based programs were in an advanced state of development. For example, *Brilliant Pebbles* was ready to move into the acquisition stage, having acquired approval by the Defense Acquisition Board. The time-frame for *Brilliant Pebbles* deployment, assuming a program of modest acquisition streamlining, would have led to deployment before the year 2000, or perhaps sooner, according to former Strategic Defense Initiative Organization director, Ambassador Henry F. Cooper:

"In both the Space-Based Interceptor [*Brilliant Pebbles*] and other follow-on R&D areas, the pace at which system concepts can be fully developed and fielded is set by the available funding—not the state of technology [emphasis added]. Present schedules could be considerably shortened, perhaps up to half, if technology limited development programs were funded." [Ambassador Henry F. Cooper, *Summary of SDI Programs and Plans for Theater and National Ballistic Missile Defense*, January 4, 1993, p. 12.]

Furthermore, a March 15, 1995 letter from Dr. Edward T. Gerry to Senator Strom Thurmond confirmed the Space Based Laser program was entering a ten-year development and acquisition phase in a program using modest streamlining, as pointed out in Dr. Gerry's letter, signed by representatives of Lockheed Martin and TRW, which included a summary of the Space Based Laser program status and a ten-page attachment.

Had the Clinton administration vigorously funded and pursued these ballistic missile defense programs, including Space Based Interceptors, Space Based Lasers, and Navy Upper Tier, we would already have ballistic missile defenses deployed. Instead, in the nearly eight years of its tenure, this administration has gone out of its way to block deployment of a ballistic missile defense, fighting the will of Congress in the mistaken belief it is better to leave the United States vulnerable to attack than to defend our freedom and our lives.

The record is clear. After two full terms in office, Mr. Clinton will have failed to deploy any defense against long-range ballistic missile attack.

Moreover, his administration plans to delay the deployment of any National Missile Defense system until the year 2005 (this particular system would exclude much of our territory and assets), and plans not to deploy the Navy Theater Wide missile defense program until the year 2007.

President Clinton, through his actions, will ensure the American people remain undefended against the threat of long-range ballistic missile attack for five years or more after the end of his administration. This record deserves emphasis and understanding by every American. Despite a clear and growing threat from ballistic missile attack, this administration has ensured no defense in the short term, and a lasting legacy of little or no defense for years to come.

ARCHITECTURE

The only ballistic missile program even contemplated is limited in scope and intrinsically limited in effectiveness. Rather than vigorously pursuing a variety of ballistic missile defense technologies and basing modes to provide multiple opportunities for intercepting long-range ballistic missiles over the full course of their flight, the Clinton administration has instead limited our ballistic missile defense program to a single mid-course defense, foregoing the advantage of a boost phase defense.

The proposal for a mid-course defense consists of ground-based interceptors deployed at two sites, one in Alaska, and one in North Dakota, along with their associated radar. This defense, while situated for ballistic missiles coming over the North Pole, is misplaced to deal with the threat of ballistic missiles launched from sea, as in the case of Submarine Launched Ballistic Missiles.

The basic architecture of the Clinton administration's ballistic missile defense program forgoes the advantages of space-based defenses. Such a defense would provide global coverage and a boost phase defense capability ground-based interceptors do not possess. The administration's proposal also limits its effectiveness against countermeasures such as submunitions, which even the Director of the BMDO admits is an advantage in favor of a boost phase defense.

The Clinton administration is intentionally rejecting the advantages of space-based defenses under various guises, claiming either adherence to the ABM Treaty, a desire not to "weaponize" space (as if long-range ballistic missiles armed with nuclear warheads traveling through space are not weapons), or denial of the technological maturity, cost effectiveness, and quick deployability of space-based defenses.

To fortify its policy of non-deployment in space, the administration in early 1993 canceled the *Brilliant Pebbles* program to build and deploy Space Based Interceptors and reduced funding for the Space Based Laser program to a token. Even today's Space Based Laser program is operating at a budget 10% or less than what is necessary to build a constellation of Space Based Lasers.

Furthermore, in overseeing the Space Based Laser program, the administration has delayed the necessary development steps, under the guise of waiting for new technology, rather than advancing it today using current technology. By consistently confusing management teams and contractors by transitioning from competition to a "community" team, and by de-emphasizing the goal of testing a Space Based Laser in space, the Clinton administration has greatly weakened the program. By placing the Space Based Laser in competition with the AirBorne Laser, rather than recognizing the unique and separate applications of each program, the administration will even further delay the development of Space Based Lasers.

In summary, the Clinton administration, despite inheriting over forty years of research and analysis into ballistic defense architecture, has yet to present or pursue the basic principles of an effective ballistic missile defense architecture, which includes multiple opportunities for intercepting a ballistic missile; continuous, global coverage to protect the entire United States; and a boost phase defense capability.

PROGRAM

It is no small matter the Clinton administration believes and maintains space-based defenses are less technologically mature than ground-based defenses. Certainly the administration is aware of America's space superiority over the past 40 years, particularly in the realm of payload transport and positioning. It is much easier to position in advance an interceptor in space than to booster launch one under extreme reactionary duress and severe time-constraints.

The deployment of interceptors or high-energy lasers in space provides continuous, global coverage—an advantage not shared by the BMDO's ground-based ballistic missile defense architecture. The BMDO is pursuing an architecture inherently limited in its capability and guaranteed to provide a sub-optimal defense.

According to prior cost estimates by the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, the BMDO's proposed ground-based interceptor system, consisting of approximately 100 interceptors, can be expected to cost between \$20-\$30 billion. Yet, for \$10-\$20 billion, we could build a system of Space Based Interceptors, such as *Brilliant Pebbles*, which would consist of approximately 1,000 interceptors and include 10-year life cycle replacement. For an additional \$20-\$30 billion, we could build a constellation of Space Based Lasers providing a boost phase defense. But rather than endorse a cost-effective and technologically-feasible system of space-based defenses, President Clinton fervently argues against them.

The administration's method of relying on only one contractor team to develop its ballistic missile defense program, and postponing a deployment decision until after a 2000 test, virtually guarantees the only option America will have is a limited system at a later time. Should this one test fail, the United States would remain undefended and without further options to field a ballistic missile defense. Such a situation, wherein the very security and future of our nation could hinge upon a single, limited system of defense, is entirely unacceptable.

BOOST PHASE DEFENSE

The advantages of a boost phase defense, largely unrecognized by the BMDO's plan for a national missile defense program, are worthy of mention. These advantages include:

- (1) Simplified target detection and identification, aided by the boosting missile's burning rocket and hot exhaust plume;
- (2) Simplified identification and targeting due to the larger size of a boosting rocket over a hardened reentry vehicle traveling through the cold of space;
- (3) Simplified target destruction because a boosting missile is under aerodynamic stress and is unarmored compared to a hardened reentry vehicle.

To these inherent advantages of a Boost Phase Defense is added the ability to intercept a ballistic missile before releasing its payload of multiple warheads, decoys, and/or clustered submunitions. A boost defense will greatly mitigate the difficulties encountered by an integrated ballistic missile defense downstream from the boost phase.

Yet, the administration has chosen not to pursue the development of a boost phase defense capability for a national missile defense.

SUMMARY

The Clinton administration opposes the deployment of a national missile defense. Whether cloaking its opposition in a limited, ineffective defense program, rejecting the advantages of space-based defenses by claiming technological infeasibility, restricting our ballistic missile defense program to ground-based interceptors, or adhering to an outdated and ineffective Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, the record of this administration is clear—no ballistic missile defense for the American people.

The Clinton administration claims the ABM Treaty is the cornerstone of our “arms control” policy, even though the Soviet Union freely violated the ABM Treaty in its pursuit of a national missile defense and through its massive buildup of offensive nuclear missiles. The ABM Treaty is outdated, a fact which even its author, Henry Kissinger, has admitted. Yet, President Clinton, through the BMDO Congressional liaison, Commander John M. Pollin, is parading the ABM Treaty and its unratified amendments as a reason to delay the development of

space-based defenses. [Commander John M. Pollin, *There Are Limits on Sea-Based NMD*, Naval Institute Proceedings, April 1999, pp. 44-47.]

The Clinton administration's policy of leaving the American people undefended from long-range ballistic missiles is dangerous, unconscionable, and indeed, an embarrassing chapter in our nation's history. We need to defend our freedom.

Very truly yours,

BOB SCHAFFER,
Member of Congress.